(c) whether Government have taken any action against them; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) As per reports of Oil Companies no such case has been detected recently.

Oil refineries

1082. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to raise the capacity of crude refining in the country;

(b) if so, which are the places Government have selected for setting up of oil refineries; and

(c) what is likely to be the total capacity of the refineries proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Besides expansion/debottlenecking of the existing refineries there are proopsals for setting up new refineries at Karnal, Mangalore, Numaligarh and Narimanam at various stages of approval/implementation. These new refineries will result in creation of an additional capacity of 12.5 MMT per annum. It is also proposed to set up three new grass root refineries, each with a capacity of 6 MMT per annum, to be located in Eastern India, Central India and Western India, during 8th/9th Five Year Plans.

Total capacity of oil refineries

1083. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Oil refineries with total capacity presently operating in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the capacity is not adequate to meet the demand; and

(c) what steps Government are talking to fill the gap between supply and demand including augmentation of existing capacity?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Twelve Oil refineries with a total capacity of 51.85 MMTPA.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At present the gap between demand and indigenous availability is being met by import of petroleum products. Additional refining capacity is being created by expansion/debottlenecking of the existing refineries are by setting up of new grassroot refineries.

Self sufficiency in oil technology

1084. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project for achieving self-sufficiency in oil technology in the immediate future; and

(b) if so, by when such technology is likely to become operative?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (b) Advancement of technology is a continuous process and it is in the interest of the country to use the best possible technology available.

Sharing of financial risk

1085. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have offered to share financial risk in oil exploration by foreign companies;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;